



# NEWS RELEASE

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
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(Richmond, Virginia, January 5, 2004) – The USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct a national Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey at the beginning of 2004 for the reference year 2003.

Nationally, the nursery and floriculture industry has more than doubled from 1988 to 1998. In 2000 sales totaled \$10.9 billion dollars per year. It is vital to measure industry growth so that supporting industries and policymakers can provide necessary resources.

This survey will be used to produce reliable data on key items such as area of production, product sold, and value of sales. Industry leaders encourage your participation in this survey, knowing it is crucial to have accurate data on the nursery and Christmas tree industry. Results from the Nursery and Christmas Tree Production Survey will be released on July 26, 2004.

NASS works with growers and producers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep U.S. agricultural industries informed. Growers gain important benefits from providing their responses to this survey. The results are official USDA estimates and will help ensure information is available to the public and the industry on nursery and Christmas tree production. Summarized results will help measure the economic contribution of nursery and Christmas tree industry to the U.S. economy and will provide accurate industry statistics that will be crucial to obtaining research funding and government support on various issues.

“We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses as required by law,” said Virginia State Statistician. “Data from individual operations are combined with other responses to provide the needed data. We will not disclose any data about an individual operation.”

You can view commercial nursery production statistics on the NASS Homepage at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/) For other information, e-mail [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov) or call 1-800-727-9540. To order a printed copy of any NASS report, call the NASS Order Desk at 1-800-999-6779.

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